

NORTH SCITUATE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*606 West Greenville Road
North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
(401) 647-5133 Fax (401) 647-5680*

February 11, 2003

Ms. Anne Parent
Chief of Library Services
Office of Library and Information Services
Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Parent:

The support which OLIS provides to libraries and librarians has been so solid and seamless over the years that one tends to take it all for granted. If it should disappear tomorrow, my patrons would sorely feel its loss.

A quick glance at our circulation statistics indicates that North Scituate Public Library loaned 85,502 items last year. Of these items, 6,362 arrived at the library through the statewide delivery system. That's 8% of our total circulation! As people discover that they can order materials through the system, usage has skyrocketed. Two years ago, the library received only 2,840 items through the delivery. The citizens of Scituate have certainly discovered this wonderful service and are enjoying its benefits.

It may seem a small thing, but many of our seniors are virtually homebound during the winter, and spend much of their time reading. They tend to read by author – and want every book that author ever wrote! Without the delivery system, we would not be able to fill their needs - and they do so look forward to the arrival of a fresh title.

Frank Iacono and the OLIS professional collection have proved invaluable to me and my staff. If I need information on any topic, I am sure to find something in the collection, and if further help is needed, Frank goes out of his way to find the information I want. He is the Librarian's Librarian. Although the general public may never know of this service, they receive the benefit in efficient, effective library service. For example, my Young Adult librarian, Priscilla Colwell, attends the Young Adult Round Table discussions moderated by Frank. He guides this group efficiently, facilitating discussion of collection development and programming ideas. These discussions translate directly into service to the teenagers in Scituate.

Services to children have always been extremely important here in Scituate. Our children's librarian, Brenda D'Aguanno, notes that the children's discussion group on the LORI web site has been a wonderful tool for children's librarians to tap one another for information, suggestions, insights, collection development questions, and program ideas.

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Melody Allen is a great asset due to her wealth of knowledge of children's literature, library services to children, and purely practical information based on her many years' experience. Beyond all this, OLIS has proven very beneficial for children's services in Scituate by providing the library with storytellers, performers, and idea sharing workshops for Summer Reading. The children of Scituate benefit greatly from our Summer Program, and are eagerly waiting for this Summer's programs to begin!

The hand of OLIS is in every service the library provides, and indeed, in many that we do not. I have had the opportunity of referring many people to Andy Egan and Talking Books Plus. They have been so grateful for the caring, personal attention which they receive from Andy and his staff.

North Scituate is a small library, yet we can provide the services of a major library system by tapping into the resources provided by OLIS. My thanks to you all on behalf of my patrons in Scituate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L B McDonough', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Leslie B. McDonough
Director